

working together, this country is going to be in great shape for the future.

Thank you very much.

The Moderator. We want to make the President an honorary Louisianian so he can properly celebrate Mardi Gras, so I'm going to give him my beads which I wear every day. [Laughter]

The President. When I am no longer President—and I have been making this little list of all of all the things I wanted to do in my life I never got around to doing, and if God leaves me healthy and I can do it—when I'm taking time off of paying my legal bills—[laughter]—I've got this list of things I want to do. And one of the things I want to do is go to the Mardi Gras and play my saxophone with a group like that. If I live long enough, I'll wear these beads.

Thank you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. in the auditorium at the Department of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Kathleen Blanco of Louisiana and Claude (Buddy) Leach, king of Washington Mardi Gras.

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in London, United Kingdom

February 9, 1996

All Americans join Hillary and me in our outrage at the bomb explosion today in London. I condemn in the strongest possible terms this cowardly action and hope those responsible are brought swiftly to justice. Our hearts and prayers go out to those injured in this terrible blast and to their families.

I am deeply concerned by reports that the Irish Republican Army has announced an end to the cease-fire. For a year and a half, the people of the United Kingdom and Ireland have enjoyed living in peace, free to go about their daily lives without the threat of the bomb and the bullet. As was clear during my visit to Northern Ireland last year, the

people want peace. No one and no organization has the right to deny them that wish.

The terrorists who perpetrated today's attack cannot be allowed to derail the effort to bring peace to the people of Northern Ireland—a peace they overwhelmingly support.

The United States stands ready to assist the two Governments in continuing their search for negotiations and peace. Today's action underscores the urgent need for all sides to join in the fight against terrorism and to press forward in that search.

Statement on the Floods in Oregon and Washington

February 9, 1996

Our hearts and prayers go out to the thousands of people in Oregon and Washington who have been inundated by the devastating floods and those who are waging a brave fight to keep the water from pouring over the river banks.

In an effort to provide quick action in their urgent time of need, today I have signed Federal disaster declarations for Oregon and Washington. These declarations will give help to individuals, including temporary housing, family grants, and low-interest loans. We are also providing funds to help rebuild the State and local infrastructure.

I have asked FEMA Director James Lee Witt to go to both Oregon and Washington, survey the damage, and lead the Federal response and recovery efforts.

The people of Oregon and Washington have demonstrated a remarkable amount of courage and resilience in this difficult time. I know they cannot recover alone. We are with them for as long as it takes.

Finally, let me take a moment to express my deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives during this natural disaster. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.